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Public to see Main Street Connector project designs next week



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The public will get a more in-depth look at the latest and greatest plans for the Main Street to Main Street Multi-Modal Connector Project next Monday.

[Michael Carpenter](#), who's heading up the \$30 million project for the city, is hosting a public informational session at 5:30 p.m. April 29 at City Hall.

The design is 60 percent complete and the design consultant team, which will be on hand to answer questions, will be able to show basic design as well as some material and color choices.

"That's a good point for us to reach out to the public and ask for input for where we're heading," Carpenter said.

HDR Engineering Inc. is the primary consultant on the bridge portion. The company, which did the project's feasibility study, is working with a number of local consultants, including **ETI Corp.**, Self Tucker Architects, Ritchie Smith Associates and Buchart-Horn.

Buchart-Horn, an engineering and architecture firm, is leading the Arkansas portion, working with West Memphis contractors and landscape architect Dalhoff Thomas design | studio.

Powers Hill Design LLC is the lead consultant on the Memphis Main Street portion, working with subconsultants including LRK Inc. and Alta Landscapes Inc. and SSR.

Some preliminary decisions have been made: the design teams have picked aluminum as the material for the pedestrian bridge due to its light weight.

"It's going to look different from some of the renderings you probably saw early on," Carpenter said.

That's because these later drawings have had to integrate technical decisions with aesthetic ones.

For example, Union Pacific Corp. is requiring a nine-foot high, unclimbable mesh barrier between the pedestrian walkway and the railroad tracks.

In the meantime, Carpenter has been hard at work on the next big milestone: the obligation of federal funds to the project. The city and the Department of Transportation plan to sign grant agreements this June which will release \$15 million in federal funding for the project. The agreements include project budgets, schedules and performance measures.

They'll also give an overview of the project, which includes the transformation of the Harahan Bridge into a bike and pedestrian path over the Mississippi River, as well as infrastructure improvements on Main Street from Uptown to South Main and along streets to the Harahan Bridge.

There will also be discussion about how the project will be phased. Construction could start by August or September, although the Main Street portion will be phased and be done at a slower pace to disrupt businesses less, according to Carpenter.

The Harahan Bridge portion is scheduled to be completed by August 2014 with the entire project scheduled for completion by late 2015.

[Click here](#) to read the Memphis Business Journal's [three-part series](#) on the [Main Street to Main Street Multi-Modal Connector Project](#).

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